

against which the result of the late election, has entered the protest of our State. It has equally condemned the policy of those, chiefly foreigners, who shared in, and who have not yet forgotten the practices and abuses permitted abroad; who acknowledge an allegiance superior to the laws and Constitution of the State, and who openly violate, or silently evade in their system, that principle proclaimed in the 35th article of the Bill of Rights. All history has shown the evils which flow from the accumulation of property and money, in ministerial and sectarian hands. That it then becomes a power for the promotion of religious discord, is dangerous to religious purity, and hurtful to religious freedom.

The people of Maryland early set forth what should be the policy of their government; and in the latest expression of their opinion, they have warned those who have been concerned in, or who hoped to profit by these attempts, that they are trespassing on a fundamental principle of her constitution.

To you, gentlemen, has been confided the duty of protecting and extending the great right to free instruction of every child in the State, without regard to sectarian differences, in her public schools. The people have shown that they will confer political power on those alone, who admit that right free from religious interference; and who refuse to acknowledge any higher authority, in such matters than the Constitution and the laws of the land. They ask of no man his religious creed. They will trust their liberties and laws to no man who does not acknowledge that law as his only rule of political conduct. To those who clamor, for political ends, about "civil and religious liberty," the people of this State answer that *their* laws first proclaimed, and still define what they mean by those words: that they are content to abide by those ancient laws, unaltered in either word or meaning; and they intend that they shall be obeyed.

The illustrious Founder of the nation, when he took leave of the public service, warned us of the danger of sectional agitation.

"In contemplating the causes which may disturb our Union," he said, "it occurs as matter of serious concern that any ground should have been furnished for characterising parties by *geographical discriminations*, northern and southern, Atlantic and Western: whence *designing* men may endeavor to excite a belief that there is a real difference of local interest and views. One of the expedients of party to acquire influence within particular districts is to misrepresent the opinions and aims of other districts. You cannot shield yourselves too much against the jealousies and heartburnings which spring from these misrepresentations. They tend to render alien to each other those who ought to be bound together by fraternal affection." These words have ever been the true expression of the opinions, and the policy of the people of Maryland on that great subject of sectional agitation. A slave-

restraint upon this indiscriminate naturalization.